

VSH Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2009, 1:30 pm

Nursing Classroom

Type of meeting: Oversight

Facilitator: Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health

Note taker: Denise McCarty

Steering Committee Members: Ann Moore, Kate Purcell, Terry Rowe, VSH Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Simpatico (for partial mtg), Beth Tanzman (Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health); Dr. Jay Batra, VSH Associate Medical Director.

Attendees: Jessica Oski, DMH Legal Department; Joan Senecal, Commissioner of DAIL, Anne Donahue, Michael Sabourin

Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes

The May meeting minutes were reviewed by the Steering Committee. Terry had a correction to her section of the minutes. Ann Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Beth Tanzman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Discussion: Executive Director's Report with Terry Rowe

VSH Porch Update:

BGS is working on getting at least one of the porches repaired quickly so patients who are temporarily restricted to the units can get fresh air.

There is a sprinkler company evaluating the treatment mall space to see what condition the pipes are in. If they are in good condition, the pipes will be boxed in; if pipes are bad, they will be replaced and put in the ceiling. The estimated time of completion, will be determined at a later date.

VSH provided a position to the Department in order to retain Brian Smith, DMH Housing coordinator. The VSH needed a staff person to provide create a centralized database and notification system for all activities related to Environment of Care. VSH has had two leaders sharing responsibility for different elements of EOC but there was not an established method of integration. Brian will integrate their work into a centralized data and notification system that will provide leaders with the necessary information to manage operations. Frank Reed and TR will finalize the duties associated with Brian's role by the end of June.

TR contacted Marian Paris, from DCF central office, for assistance in locating an out of state resource for a particularly challenging patient whose needs would be better met within a behavioral model of care. TR stated she has known Marion Paris for many years.

Michael mentioned that SAMSHA's six core strategies model will be used internationally including Australia and New Zealand. In the article Michael read the VSH was mentioned as implementing this model. The SAMHSA model is becoming known as a standard for care with people with serious mental illness.

(End of Executive Director's Report)

Discussed: Medical Director's Report with Jay Batra

The census is hovering around approximately 50 patients. We are recruiting for a physician to replace Dr. Simpatico's physician slot. Dr. Corrine Pelletier is interested in part-time work at VSH while the staff is slim during the summer months.

Jay recommended to Michael Hartman to accept Dr. Pelletier's credentialing packet while recruiting for a full-time position.

H1N1 Flu preparations

Medical staff has been planning for low staff situations if there were a pandemic flu outbreak.

(End of Medical Director's Report)

Discussed: Violence Prevention Community Meeting Discussion with Anne Jerman

VSH now has a structured system to conduct violence prevention community meetings twice per week on the day shift on all three units. These meetings are not mandatory for the patients to attend but patients are encouraged to go. Brooks 1 only, there is an evening meeting one time per week.

B 1 - Everyone has an idea they want to share, lively group

B 2 – There are a core group of patients that oversee that the meetings happen.

B Rehab – This unit has elderly and long term patients on it so the patients tend to be shy however, this unit's meetings are well attended.

Discussion followed.

Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Report–

Tommie gave an update to the committee of the most recent DOJ survey visit findings surrounding treatment plans, medication management and patterns and trends over time (hand out graph is available). Tommie circulated a graph that shows the hospital's compliance progress since November 2006 to date.

VSH submitted a Plan of Correction to CMS. We are waiting for a follow up survey which will occur some time after June 9th.

Discussion followed.

Other Business –

Ann Moore asked about how the state retirement incentives would impact employees at VSH. Discussion followed.

Policies with Jessica Oski –

Rehabilitation Services Policy, Interim –

Waived Testing Policy, Interim –

These policies are necessary for CMS compliance. Policies were reviewed, discussion followed.

Ann Moore recommended to accept the policies

Beth Tanzman seconded the recommendation. All in favor.

Medical Staff By-law amendments -

The Medical Staff bylaw amendments were approved by CMS.

The committee discussed disaster planning. JO will check if the Health Department is requiring to adhere to a certain procedure for disaster planning. Discussion followed about pandemic flu planning.

No revisions were made to these policies by the committee. Ann Moore recommended to accept the policies presented. Beth Tanzman seconded the recommendation to accept the policies.

Public Comment – Points of interest presented by public attendees:

- Conflict of interests concerns other than monetary
- VSH Physician Recruitment – Salary comparisons with surrounding hospitals
- Treatment Mall – will the pipes be tested before opening the treatment mall?
- What is the Jeff Geller list of concerns from the latest DOJ visit?
- Status of restoring a legal Governing Body? (Michael will submit a clearer request during the next legislative session)

Meeting adjourned at 330 pm. The next meeting of the VSH Steering Committee will be July 15, 2009 at 1:30 pm in the VSH Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty
Minute Taker